

For immediate release  
October 31, 2006

## **SALTON SEA RESTORATION, LOWER COLORADO RIVER PROJECT, AND LOWER GILA RIVER FLOOD PROTECTION ON AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 14 PUBLIC MEETING**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) announces a public meeting of the Colorado River Citizens' Forum (CRCF) on November 14, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. MST, City of Yuma Public Works Department Training Room, 155 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Yuma, Arizona.

Rick Daniels, Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority, will present the Authority's Plan for the Restoration and Revitalization of the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea has been studied for decades yet very little has been done in terms of arriving at a plan for restoring the Sea that is supported by local, state, and federal agencies. The Salton Sea Authority took a major step forward in adopting a plan for the Sea in June 2006. The Authority includes the Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial County, Riverside County, and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. The Plan envisions retaining the existing water, thus prohibiting any further water transfers out of the basin. The Plan envisions increasing wildlife habitats, improving the water quality of the Sea, controlling air quality impacts, and creating recreation and economic opportunities for the region.

The Plan is the subject of ongoing environmental review and is being reviewed by state and federal agencies. By Fall 2007, a Preferred Alternative should be selected and authorized by the California Legislature. Following 2-3 years of final environmental review and engineering design, the region should begin to experience construction activity that will finally begin to solve a decades-old problem for the benefit of the entire two county region.

USIBWC Yuma Project Manager Al Goff will give an update on the Lower Colorado River Boundary and Capacity Preservation Project – an effort to maintain the Colorado River as the international boundary and to ensure the channel's capacity to safely convey flood flows and deliver water to Mexico. The USIBWC, in conjunction with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, is initiating a study that will help to determine the

recommended capacity for the river channel based on the likelihood of floods of various magnitudes.

Also on the agenda, the Lower Gila River Flood Protection and Habitat Restoration Project. Wade Noble, Citizens' Forum Board Member and General Counsel of the North Gila Valley Irrigation and Drainage District, will discuss the project. In 1993, the Gila River experienced record high flows and releases at Painted Rock Dam. This event resulted in property loss, damage to agriculture and irrigation drainage facilities. Local area residents, farmers, and water districts have met to discuss protections that can be put in place to avoid future damage. There are also plans to restore and conserve habitat.

The CRCF was established in 2003 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California. The CRCF is intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, government agencies, irrigation districts, municipalities, and other interested parties. The CRCF has nine volunteer board members who represent a variety of interests in the region.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting can contact the USIBWC's Yuma Office at (928) 782-1598.

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**COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS' FORUM**  
**Tuesday, November 14, 2006**  
**4:00 - 6:00 P.M. (MST)**  
**City of Yuma Public Works Department Training Room**  
**155 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street (at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.)**  
**Yuma, Arizona**

**Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions - Al Goff, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Salton Sea Authority Plan for the Restoration and Revitalization of the Salton Sea - Rick Daniels, Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority
- Lower Gila River Flood Protection and Habitat Restoration Project - Wade Noble, General Counsel, North Gila Valley Irrigation and Drainage District
- Update on the Lower Colorado River Boundary and Capacity Project - Al Goff, Yuma Project Manager, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion/Suggested Future Agenda Items

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time.

For more information, call 928-782-1598 or e-mail [sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov).